

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action of May 3, 2004, and is believed to be fully responsive thereto and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 & 7-12 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner indicated with regard to Claim 1, that the phrase "the substrate having a subset of integrated circuit element thereon ... a conductive line formed on said substrate" is unclear as where the subset of integrated element and conductive line are positioned in the substrate. Figure 7 shows only polysilicon (conductive) line having width W1 & W2. The Examiner asks "what is the subset of integrated element? Does it means a conductive line or anything else?"

The Examiner indicated that claims 2-3 & 7-12 are rejected because each includes the limitations of independent claim 1, and that it is therefore impractical to conduct a reasonable search.

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter they consider their invention. The claim now points out that the fuse element co-exists on a semiconductor substrate having a standard subset of integrated circuit elements all of a minimum design width. It is well understood in the art that standard integrated circuit elements includes a wide range of devices, such as transistors, diodes, etc. The fuse element however has a link portion within the center portion which has a sub-minimum width that is less than the minimum width. This minimum width is identified in Figs. 7, 8, and 9 as W2.

The Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35

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USC §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Claim 1 as amended, is now in allowable condition and no additional search is required.

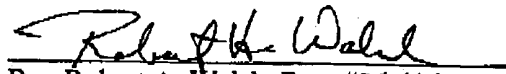
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims active in the subject patent application are in condition for allowance and that the application may be passed to issuance.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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